



Express support for AB 361 (Rivas, D-Hollister) and AB 703 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park)

Communications and Legislative Committee

Item # 7-6

March 8, 2021

Background

- The Ralph M. Brown Act
 - Requires all local legislative body meetings:
 - Be open and public
 - All persons must be permitted to participate
 - Currently allows the option to teleconference if:
 - Physical location is noticed and publicly accessible
 - A quorum of members must participate from within agency jurisdiction

Governor's Executive Order N-29-20

- Signed March 2020
- Response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Waives certain Brown Act requirements, including:
 - Physical presence in establishing a quorum
 - Physical presence as a condition of public participation
- Metropolitan currently operating under this Executive Order

AB 361 (Robert Rivas, D-Hollister): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

- Sponsored by the California Special Districts Association
- Amends the Brown Act to provide:
 - Ability to conduct a public meeting as teleconference
 - During a state or local emergency
 - Without noticing of physical location
 - Without physical quorum requirement

AB 703 (Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) Open meetings; local agencies: teleconferences.

- Sponsored by Three Valleys Municipal Water District
- Amends the Brown Act to provide:
 - Ability for public to address the legislative body directly without physical quorum or physical presence requirements
 - No requirement of a state or local emergency

Summary

- Two different approaches to modernize the Brown Act regarding the use of teleconferencing
- Legislature would need to reconcile approaches if bills move forward

Board Options

- Option #1
 - Authorize the General Manager to express support for AB 361 (Rivas, D-Hollister) and AB 703 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park).
- Option #2
 - Do not support AB 361 (Rivas, D-Hollister) and AB 703 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park).

Staff recommendation:

- Option #1: Authorize the General Manager to express support for AB 361 (D-Rivas) and AB 703 (D-Rubio).

